

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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AUGUST, writes Kenji Kono, Kyoto university professor, in an article in the Asahi Yukan of August 25, "is the season when we Japanese become pensive. In this season, we recall the dead, measure the distance between the dead and ourselves, who are scurrying about in the heat of summer, and then return to our busy daily lives." He points out that two anniversaries were added to the August calendar 24 years ago--the A-bombings and Japan's surrender. "The agony, anger, repentance and determination we experienced on the August days in that year have been handed down to the younger generation who did not experience them," he writes, proceeding to ponder how the future will look back at the University bill passed by the Diet this August.

Since we left you in late July, August has come and gone. In the July 25 issue of JCAN we referred to three important bills that were pending in the Diet...the bill to nationalize Yasukuni Shrine, the bill to revise immigration regulations, and the bill to "normalize" government universities.

Two of the bills--Yasukuni and Immigration--were not acted upon and will be taken up at the next session of the Diet in September. They will continue to be studied and watched carefully. The University Measures Law was enacted on Aug. 4th and became effective two weeks later. There is considerable criticism both of the Law and of the way it was passed (see Headline-making Events, page 5) and some doubt as to how effective it will be. Meanwhile its passage is being protested by statements and strikes on several campuses and by non-compliance on the part of a number of government schools.

* This issue comes to you late, with apologies. The editing schedule from now on calls for mailing the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month.

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BAPTIST RENMEI ELECTS ARASE

The Japan Baptist Renmei, at its July 22-25 assembly at Amagi Sanso, elected Noboru Arase, 53, of Shionzan Baptist Church, Kitakyushu, to the post of chairman. Rev. Sueo Kitahara, 46, of Nagoya Mizuho Church was named vice-chairman. Yoshikazu Nakajuma, 42, continues as general secretary. Arase is also chairman of the Japan Baptist Medical Association.

While proposed bills criticizing the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Osaka Expo '70 were defeated, the Assembly did pass a resolution opposing the construction of the Christian Pavilion at Expo '70. It stated as its reason fear that uncritical participation in the plans and activities of the government might lead to violation of the principle of separation of church and state.

The Assembly also expressed its opposition to the proposed Immigration bill on the basis of Christian faith and conscience, stating that it would limit the activities of foreigners living in or coming to Japan, and puts unlimited power in the hands of the government, pointing to a continuation of an authoritarian philosophy of government.

\$1,000 SENT FOR HURRICANE CAMILLE RELIEF

Responding to a World Council of Churches' appeal for relief for the victims of Hurricane Camille, which recently devastated the Gulf Coast of the United States, leaving more than 250 dead and 200,000 homeless, the NCC Department of Service sent a donation of \$1,000 on behalf of Japanese churches.

ART NEWS

The Catholic Art Council announces its fall exhibition, to be held Oct. 26-Nov. 4 at St. Ignatius Church near Yotsuya Station. Works of art expressing the Christian artist's personal faith are being solicited in four categories: pictures; sculpture; industrial arts (dyeing, metalwork, ceramics, lacquerware, mosaic, jewelry); and architecture (scale models).

Applications to enter works in the exhibit should be directed to Masuyuki Morikawa, 28-15 Kita 2-chome, Nishiogikubo, Suginami-ku, Tokyo.

Osamu Nishizaka's Works on The Life of Jesus are being exhibited at the Japan Bible Society Service Center, 4-5-1 Ginza, Tokyo, from 9:00 to 5:00 daily (except Saturday and Sunday) from Sept. 2 through 19. Nishizaka, who is an Osaka artist, works in oil and is exhibiting a series of 27 small paintings depicting events in the life of Christ.

Sadao Watanabe, well-known stencil printer whose works appear frequently on the covers of Japanese Christian magazines and who has gained a wide international following, left in August for Linfield College, McMinnville, Ore. where he will be teaching from September through December.

KUMAMOTO UNIVERSITY'S NOMURA IS NEW JCMA PRESIDENT

Dr. Shigeru Nomura, professor of public health, Kumamoto University, was elected new president of the Japan Christian Medical Association at its annual general assembly, July 25-27, at Tozanso, Gotemba. Two hundred fifty members attended; four members of the Catholic Doctors Association were also present, along with NCC's Dr. In Ha Lee.

Against the background of recent medical discoveries that focus new interest on "Life," there was lively discussion and Bible study.

TRI-COUNTRY BIBLE SOCIETY STUDY

In their first cooperative study venture, representatives of Japan, Taiwan and Korea Bible Societies met in Taiwan Aug. 25-29 for study on Bible Society matters. In addition to the twenty Asian members, W. A. Hutchinson, Asia consultant, K. W. Ellem from Australia, from Rev. E. A. Cline, Vietnam, attended as speakers.

Japanese delegates were Rev. Shunzo Miyauchi, Japan Bible Society general secretary; Torao Seki, distribution; Yoshihiko Tanaka, sales promotion; and Shinobu Nakamura, chief of the Kwansai branch.

"WE MUST CHANGE TOO" SAY EDUCATORS

The current age of "educational reform" does not mean the end of the Christian schools, but it does mean that Christian schools too must change, said many administrators, attending the Summer School for School Administrators held July 31-Aug. 2 under the sponsorship of the Education Association of Christian Schools. When someone questioned, in a panel discussion, whether Christian schools are not a "thing of the past," schoolmen quickly disagreed but said they do need to change in view of the changing world.

Words like "reformation," "renewal", "revolution" were common coin as the 200 chancellors, presidents and deans from 55 schools analyzed the present situation, its causes and possible outcomes.

Tokyo Woman's Christian College Pres. Takenosuke Miyamoto said that, for the Christian school, "reformation of the university" means that "indiscerning our destiny, along with the forms that have been handed down to us by our founders and predecessors we must be conscious of the new possibilities open to us and make definite choices that will enable us to live freely in the future."

NIGERIA-BIAFRA FUND PASSES ¥10 MILLION MARK

Contributions to the Nigeria-Biafra Fund for relief and rehabilitation passed the ¥10 million (\$28,000) mark, helped by an individual contribution of ¥100,000. Newspaper reports continue to call attention to the desperate need, and contributions are still being welcomed.

GIFTS OF LOVE TO OKINAWA CONTINUE

The happy task of providing books for bookless school libraries on Miyakojima Island in Okinawa has fallen to the staff of the NCC Department of Service this summer as monies from the Christian campaign have been used to purchase schools books requested by grade schools on the island. Of the ¥2 million (\$5,600) contributed by church and school students for the Miyakojima project, ¥1,500,000 was sent for use in buying school supplies like pencils, tablets, erasers, notebooks. The balance has been used to purchase and ship books requested by schools for their libraries.

ARISAWA WRITES OF LAOS SITUATION

Masayoshi Arisawa, Asian Christian Service volunteer in Laos, writes that insurgent activity has forced him to withdraw from the area of his work near Ben Tarat to Vientiane. Arisawa has expressed his great concern over the tendency of some of his co-workers to set too a high standard in their own living accommodations.

NUTRITION IS SUBJECT OF SUMMER SEMINAR AND STUDY TOUR

A one-week Nutrition Seminar held in Bangalore, India, in late July included two women from Japan, in addition to women from India, other Asian countries, and a group of 27 American women, who later stopped in Japan en route to the United States in late August. The Seminar was ecumenical in program and constituency and co-ordinated by Dorothy Wagner, secretary of the Women's Relations office of the commission on Ecumenical Mission of the United Presbyterian Church.

The Seminar, concerned with world hunger and malnutrition, included presentations on Asian food problems, Bible study on passages of Scripture especially relevant to the current food crisis, and visits to agricultural and nutrition projects in research, education and extension.

Mrs. Michiko Zenno, Mabune Preaching Point, and Helen Post, Tokyo, travelled with the American team as it returned through Bangkok, the Philippines, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Mrs. Zenno, in reporting her impressions, said, "Although I had read about the poverty and hunger in India, I found the situation much worse than I expected. I was encouraged by efforts being made in agriculture, food research and education, yet these efforts seemed very small in proportion to the immensity of the problems."

"I realized," said Mrs. Zenno, "the great responsibility that rests upon Japan as a nation that enjoys a relatively prosperous situation; yet even in a country like ours, where the majority of the people enjoy a fairly good standard of living, there are minorities suffering from hunger and malnutrition; there are social institutions which do not receive sufficient funds to provide an adequate diet. Rather than being concerned only for their own wellbeing, people ought to be concerned for the nutrition problems of these people too.

"Also I was impressed by the symbolism in the fact that the American women, motivated by a concern for world hunger problems, left on their world tour on the same day the astronauts set out for the moon. While scientific progress like explorations of space are necessary, we must be willing to put the same kind of technological skills and resources that they require into overcoming problems in the world food supply." Mrs. Zenno said that she felt such crises as food and nutrition problems and refugees call for concentrating the resources from many parts of the world in order to hasten their solution.

The study tour of American women, which included Roman Catholic and Protestant, visited Kyoto Aug. 21-24 and Tokyo Aug. 27-30. At a meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 27, Mrs. Yoshiko Watari, president, Fujin no Tomo and Tomo no Kai, reported on nutrition developments and problems in Japan. Miss Hana Kawai, vice president, Keisen Jo Gakuen, discussed women's work in the church, and Dr. James Phillips sketched briefly the historical development of Christianity, including recent attempts of the church to assume a more positive position toward social problems.

AUGUST 15 MEMORIAL SERVICE

On August 15, an early morning prayer service was held at the Chidorigafuchi Cemetery, in memory of the war-dead. About 200 Christians attended the observance, sponsored by the National Christian Council.

Rev. Yoshikazu Nakajima and Rev. Toru Takakura spoke, both emphasizing the importance of the Japanese Christian's role in establishing peace.

HEADLINE-MAKING EVENTS

compiled by Ichiji Yokota

THE CONTROVERSIAL "UNIVERSITY NORMALIZATION" BILL WAS RAMMED THROUGH the Upper House of the Diet two days before the extended summer session closed. Speaker Shigemune used special powers given the speaker to rearrange the agenda and change the order of floor proceedings, calling suddenly for a standing vote on the bill. It was passed in 2 minutes by the LDP majority in the Upper House.

Three days later when Education Minister Sakata invited National University Association leaders to meet with him and asked them to work for a early normalization of campuses, they replied the law would serve to expand the disputes and make resolution difficult.

In an extraordinary session August 18, the Association endorsed the statement of Chairman Okuda, Kyoto University prexy, saying "Each university will from now on maintain the autonomy of the university, in spite of the new law, and will strive to settle the dispute according to its own convictions."

JAPAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE SAIGO AND SOUTH KOREAN MINISTER OF Justice Lee, meeting August 2, agreed on Japan's granting residence rights to South Koreans who registered as foreigners in 1950, if they did not enter Japan illegally.

THE USSR AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY MINISTRY IS FEELING OUT NISSAN AUTOMOBILE CO. on the export of cars to USSR. USSR is also negotiating with Nissan Diesel, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Isuzu Automobile, Hino Automobile and Komatsu Manufacturing Cos. on a sizeable order of trucks.

THE SHIFT OF 20-25 HECTARES FROM RICE TO OTHER PRODUCTS between 1970 and 1972 was announced by the Minister of Agriculture in a new policy for promoting agriculture.

IN THE REPLAY OF AN 18-INNING SCORELESS TIE, MATSUYAMA COMMERCIAL High School of Shikoku beat Misawa High School of Tohoku 4-2 in the 51st National High School Baseball Tournament.

WOMEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS EXCEED MEN FOR THE FIRST TIME according to a survey showing 50.3% of 361,000 teachers to be women.

A NEW-TYPE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN PROPOSED by the LDP special council under Tomisaburo Hashimoto. 15 to 20 such universities would be established; administration would be separated from education and research; freshmen would be able to study specialized subjects; teachers would be hired on contract basis, salaries based on ability not seniority.

